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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3036  
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 4483  
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RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC  
RUEILB/NCTC WASHINGTON DC  
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STATE FOR CA/P/IP-ERIN TREACY AND EAP/ANP-DAN RICCI

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND: STATUS ON HSPD-6 TERRORIST SCREENING  
INFORMATION SHARING INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 109771; YAMAMOTO-WHITNEY E-MAIL 06/24/06 (NOTAL)

11. (U) Following is an update on the status of New Zealand's efforts regarding the HSPD-6 initiative:

12. (SBU) The New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS), which is the lead agency for the HSPD-6 initiative in New Zealand, is continuing to review the draft agreement. Because the agreement is a memorandum of understanding and not a treaty, it will not require Cabinet or government approval. NZSIS hopes its director will approve and then send a memorandum on the initiative to the Prime Minister's office the week of July 17, which then would allow negotiations to begin on the agreement. NZSIS acknowledged a delay in completion of the memorandum, which it had hoped to finish in June (ref B).

13. (SBU) NZSIS noted that the initiative has broad agreement among officials in the government, including NZSIS, police, immigration and customs. However, while NZSIS considers an agreement to be achievable, it faces a tough challenge in obtaining funding to implement the initiative. The agency will need funding for computer hardware, to provide 24-hours, seven-days-a-week staffing, and to increase staff at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington. NZSIS is relatively optimistic it will obtain the additional funding. If difficulties arise, it will notify post.

14. (SBU) Beginning July 14, Embassy's point of contact on this initiative will be Acting DCM Katherine B. Hadda, telephone 64-4-462-6063; fax 64-4-472-3537; e-mail address haddaKB2@state.gov.

MCCORMICK